1198

COMIC SHOP NEWS™

From The Pages Of **The BOYS**

Highland Laddie

WHAT TURNED THE SECOND ROBIN FROM HERO TO VILLAIN?

JUDD WINICK

PABLO RAIMONDI

RED HOOD

THE LOST DAYS

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SUMMER 2010

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The Boys of Summer

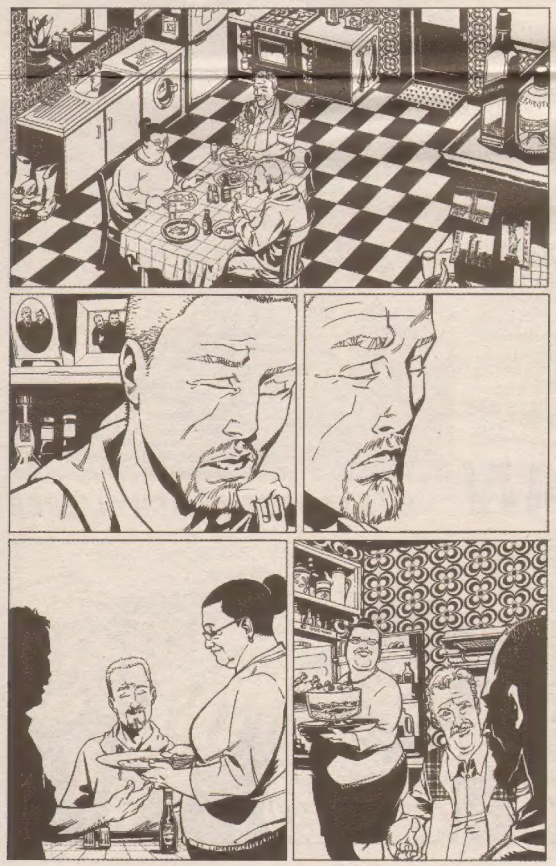
Garth Ennis fans have a great summer in store: beginning in August, they'll have not one, but *two* ***Boys*** books to read each month!

In addition to monthly issues of ***The Boys*** written by Ennis and illustrated by *Russ Braun*, Dynamite Publications will also kick off the six-part ***The Boys: Highland Laddie*** by Ennis and his frequent creative partner *John McCrea*. The new series will follow Wee Hughie as he heads back to his semi-idyllic Scottish seaside home of Auchterladle. All Hughie wants is some time to himself, to return to the bosom of family and friends, and get his head together after two years of unimaginable chaos. But his luck has always been more cloud than silver lining, and the familiar surroundings he craves are not all they might be...

"***Highland Laddie*** follows the events that come to a head in ***The Boys #47***," Ennis said of the story that follows Hughie has he gets back to his roots. But what is Hughie's home like? "He comes from a little seaside town on Scotland's north-west coast, an odd mixture of quaint Scots charm and repulsive urban decay," Ennis said. "One of the things the story deals with is the notion of the friends we make in different places, and how we feel about old friends when we go somewhere new. It also explores how home can be a refuge and at the same time a source of enormous frustration."

Hughie's return home reunites him with his old pals; who are they, and what was their relationship like when they were younger? "Big Bobby and Det are guys Hughie grew up with," Ennis said. "They've been friends since early childhood. They used to imagine themselves as detectives, kind of a junior version of the Hardy Boys. The reality was somewhat different, although vestiges of their 'Three Investigators' mentality remain."

Is Hughie considering making his leave of absence from the Boys a permanent thing? "He's not quite sure himself," Ennis said. "You'll see what he decides as the story progresses." That doesn't mean that his comrades-in-arms from the Boys are going to be *entirely* missing from this six-parter, though. "You'll see them in the first couple of issues, but they don't really play a part in the story. *Other* ex-associates of Hughie will pop up later, however."



It seems that, when Ennis and McCrea get together, the results are even more over-the-top (if that's possible!) than the usual ***Boys*** adventure. Is there something about the Ennis-McCrea gestalt that pushes the weirdness gauge even higher? "Very possibly," Ennis said. "John has a nice sense of the grotesque that it's fun to take advantage of. Although it's worth noting that ***Highland Laddie*** is a much *quieter* story than ***Herogasm***—there are certainly some weird bits, but it ended up being a darker, more thoughtful piece than I expected."

So what's the secret to their creative gestalt? "Twenty years of collaborating together and I think it's our deep love of ***Kelly's Heroes*** that makes for such a whiz-bang creative team!" *John McCrea* said.

"I really just enjoy drawing a good story, be that a Scooby Doo one, a Spider-Man one or The Boys," McCrea added. "And after twenty years, I've noticed that Garth writes a pretty good story!...."

Highland Laddie is the second of three six-part miniseries that Ennis has planned to complement ***The Boys'*** run. The acclaimed writer has said repeatedly that he has a definite ending planned for The Boys' saga. "The series will end with ***The Boys #70***," Ennis said. "So with three miniseries, that's a total of eighty-eight issues."

Three miniseries? We've seen ***Herogasm***, and now we know about ***Highland Laddie***—so what's the third? "Butcher's miniseries kicks off about a year after Hughie's," Ennis said.

How does ***Highland Laddie*** fit into Ennis's master plan for ***The Boys***? Is this a sort of sidebar story, or will this fit into the core storyline? "Very much the latter," Ennis said. "That's one way in which it *is* like ***Herogasm***—you start out thinking you're reading a sidebar story, but about halfway through events unfurl that are quite crucial to the ongoing storyline."

Ennis seems to be building towards a definite conclusion. Is this an ending he has planned out from the beginning, or is it something that developed as ***The Boys*** progressed? "From the beginning," Ennis said. "What changed was the *length* of the story, when I realized there was more to it than I'd first thought. But when we get there, it's the same as ***Preacher***—when it ends, it *ends*. No going back."

Many view ***The Boys*** as a dark satire of the superhero genre; does Ennis see it that way? "That's there, definitely," Ennis said. "It's also an historical and political drama, a look at an imaginary sidebar of the Military-Industrial complex with superpower substituted for regular munitions. The notion of superpowered or superhuman characters is not inherently without interest, but the way it's treated in 99% of comic books that leaves me cold. I'd recommend *Warren Ellis*' ***SuperGod*** as an interesting look at what a superhuman world might *really* be like—a bloody nightmare..."

Does that mean that there are no superhero comics that Ennis is currently following—and if not, what led to his decision to drop the genre? "I've *never* read superhero comics for any length of time," Ennis explained. "The comics I liked as a kid were very different. Apart from the truly great stuff, like ***Watchmen***, ***Dark Knight*** (the first one), Miller's ***Daredevil***, ***Miracleman*** etc, I've managed to avoid the genre.

"That said, it's impossible to work for any length of time in this industry and not be at least *aware* of what's happening in its number one genre. For example, I'm on the DC comps list, so hunting through the pile for ***Ex Machina*** and ***Scalped***, I see titles like ***Brightest Day***, ***Final Crisis***, etc. stamped all over everything. It's hard to fathom what's going on there—you don't even have to go past the covers.

"Perhaps what's hard for people to understand is how, far from disliking or even hating superheroes, someone could simply be *indifferent* to them. If you apply absolute genius-level, grade-A talent to superhero books, like *Alan Moore* or *Warren Ellis*, then it's just about possible to get me reading them. But why bother?

The Boys: Highland Laddie #1, a $3.99 comic by *Garth Ennis & John McCrea* with cover art by *Darick Robertson*, is slated for August release, as is ***The Boys #45***, a $3.99 comic by *Garth Ennis & Russ Braun* that also features cover art by *Darick Robertson*. And if that's not enough ***Boys*** misadventure for you,

Dynamite is also offering ***The Boys Definitive Edition Volume 3 Hardcover*** that same month; this 300+ page volume collected ***The Boys #s 31-38*** and the six-part ***Herogasm*** in a single $75.00 book that also includes oodles of extras, including all of the covers by *Darick Robertson*, sketches, script pages, and much more.

by Cliff Biggers

Courtesy your friendly neighborhood comics outlet!

CSNsider

•Hard to believe, but this year marks the 75th anniversary of DC Comics—the oldest publisher still producing comics today. To celebrate that momentous accomplishment, DC is enlisting the aid of top artistic talents to create 75th anniversary variants for some of its key books in the next few months. These variants will offer modern reinterpretations of iconic covers of years past. For instance, *Mike Mignola's* 75th anniversary variant for ***Batman #700*** is a modern reinterpretation of the classic *Lew Sayre Schwartz* cover for ***Detective Comics #168***; *Eduardo Risso's* variant for ***Superman #700*** is a contemporary take on *Neal Adams'* cover for ***Superman #233***. Look forward to lots more covers in the next few months (and, if we're lucky, a collection of those covers after the fact!).

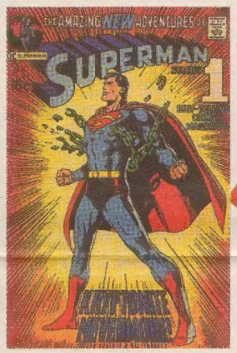
•More bad news for manga fans: DC is shutting down its CMX manga imprint this summer, with only *Fred Gallagher's* ***MegaTokyo*** continuing at DC. The final CMX offerings will ship on June 30th; anything solicited for release after that will be cancelled.

•***Steve Rogers Super-Soldier*** will be a four-issue limited series, not an ongoing.

•***Darkwing Duck***, originally solicited as a four-issue limited series, has been promoted to an ongoing. "The fan response for ***Darkwing Duck*** has been amazing!" writer *Ian Brill* said. "The fans wanted more, so we'll give them more!"

•Bluewater Productions will add a comic book biography of *Taylor Lautner* to their already-offered bios of ***Twilight*** actors *Robert Pattinson & Kristen Stewart* (and author *Stephenie Meyers*). ***Fame: Taylor Lautner*** is slated for August release.

•Fans of *Edgar Allan Poe* shouldn't dismiss the new edition of ***Graphic Classics: Edgar Allan Poe*** as just a reprinting. Instead, Eureka Productions has added forty new pages to the collection, including adaptations of "The Pit and the Pendulum" and "William Wilson" and a revised adaptation of "The Raven."



Back to Press

•***New Mutants #13 2nd Printing Roberson Variant*** (MAR108140), in stores 6/9.

•***New Avengers Finale #1 2nd Printing Battle Ready Wraparound Variant*** (APR108029), in stores 6/16.

•***New Avengers Finale #1 2nd Printing Unmasked Wraparound Variant*** (APR108030), in stores 6/16.

•***Hulk #22 2nd Printing McGuinness Variant*** (APR108028), in stores 6/16.

COMIC SHOP NEWSARAMA

Produced by *Comic Shop News* in cooperation with *newsarama.com*

Coming Comics—DC in August

Lex Luthor's all-consuming quest for power leads him straight into conflict with Deathstroke, the Terminator in ***Action Comics #892*** by *Paul Cornell & Pete Woods*. This issue also features a new Superboy story by *Jeff Lemire & Pier Gallo*—the creative team of the upcoming new ***Superboy*** ongoing series!

In ***Batman #702***, *Grant Morrison & Tony Daniel* continue their untold tale of Bruce Wayne's adventures between ***Batman RIP*** and ***Final Crisis***.

In the final chapter of "Batman Must Die," all is lost and everything has gone to pieces! Is Dick Grayson alive? Will Damian make a pact with the devil? And what will happen after the final confrontation with Dr. Hurt? *Grant Morrison & Frazer Irving* answer all those questions in ***Batman and Robin #15***.

Grant Morrison is joined by artist *Ryan Sook* in ***Batman: The Return of Bruce Wayne #5***. As Batman's time odyssey continues, Bruce Wayne finds himself in the hard-boiled streets of Gotham City's past. Will his adventure as a private investigator help him take one step closer to the present day?

Neal Adams' ***Batman: Odyssey*** ramps up in its second issue as the Caped Crusader slowly but surely loses control. A dark presence lurking in the background begins pulling Bruce's strings... who is responsible?

In ***Birds of Prey #4*** by *Gail Simone, Ed Benes, Adriana Melo, & Maria Benes*, the Birds race against the clock to protect the superhero community—but can they make it in time and find their blackmailer? And wait 'til you see the final showdown between Black Canary and White Canary!

Adam Strange offers Lois Lane a chance to fill a story from Rann in *J. Michael Straczynski & Jesus Saiz's* ***Brave and Bold #36...*** but she wasn't expecting to become an interstellar war correspondent!

There can be only one who wields the White Lantern... but is it truly Deadman? And what will happen when he attempts to charge the white ring? Find out in ***Brightest Day #s 7 & 8*** by *Geoff Johns, Peter Tomasi, Ivan Reis, Patrick Gleason, Ardian Syaf, Scott Clark, & Joe Prado*. Meanwhile, Ronnie Raymond risks everything for Firestorm, Martian Manhunter uncovers more clues about the bizarre string of murders stretching across the country, Aquaman searches for the key to the ocean's survival and the Hawks come face-to-face with the evil that lurks within the strange land known only as Hawkworld!

The DC Universe moves forward and evolves when a new generation of heroes inspired and mentored by the Silver Age's greatest come together to fight the good fight. Robin, Kid Flash, Speedy, Wonder Girl and Aqualad – the Teen Titans hit the scene in a tale illustrated by *Jose Luis Garcia-Lopez & Dave Gibbons*. At the same time, heroic humans without powers reunite to remember Sgt. Rock in a story by Joe Kubert—and that makes *Len*

SPIDER-MAN

BY STAN LEE & LARRY LIEBER

THEY'RE GOIN' AT IT TOOTH AND NAIL!
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Wein's ***DC Universe: Legacies #4*** a must-read issue indeed!

Mento's back in ***Doom Patrol #13*** by *Keith Giffen & Matthew Clark,* and Rita's got him in a death grip! When her ex takes things one step too far, he learns a hard lesson about ticking off a 50-foot woman – and we learn some secrets about Rita!

Captain Boomerang and the Reverse-Flash experience a bizarre event that ties them together in *Geoff Johns & Francis Manapul's* ***Flash #5.*** Meanwhile, it's the Rogues vs. the Renegades with The Flash caught in the middle!

Death comes to Green Arrow's forest in ***Green Arrow #3*** by *JT Krul, Diogenes Neves, & Vicente Cifuentes.* Is the Emerald Archer worthy of living in the sacred grove? Who else is in there? Will he be Green Arrow's assassin or savior? The mysteries continue!

In *Geoff Johns, Doug Mahnke, & Christian Alamy's* ***Green Lantern #57,*** readers meet a male Star Sapphire in the form of the Predator. But how is this entity unlike the others? And what does it want with Carol Ferris? Meanwhile, the White Lantern is defended by an unlikely hero…

In ***Green Lantern Corps #51*** by *Tony Bedard, Ardian Syaf, & Vicente Cifuentes,* Hannu—the Green Lantern who does not want to use his power ring—is the only hope to rescue Kyle Rayner, John Stewart and Ganthet. Does he stand a chance against an entire planet controlled by Cyborg Superman?

In *Peter Tomasi & Fernando Pasarin's* ***Green Lantern: Emerald Warriors #1,*** Guy Gardner begins his secret mission for Atrocitus, bringing him into conflict with Hal Jordan with massive repercussions for the Green Lantern Corps! Guy takes fellow Emerald Warriors Kilowog and Arisia along as he explores the Unknown Sectors — but what happens when they discover his mission and what's waiting for them in the unpatrolled darkness?

GREEN LANTERN: EMERALD WARRIORS 1

DC's biweekly Justice League event continues in ***Justice League: Generation Lost #s 7 & 8*** by *Judd Winick, Keith Giffen, Joe Bennett, & Aaron Lopresti.* Justice League International has reformed and tracked Maxwell Lord to Checkmate headquarters. Their plan is simple: break into Checkmate – one of the most heavily guarded facilities on the planet – and cap-

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ture Max so he can pay for his crimes. But Max has more than one trick up his sleeve as he turns the entire world against the JLI and shows Booster Gold, Captain Atom, Fire, Ice, Blue Beetle and Rocket Red what it truly means to be lost...

James Robinson & Mark Bagley's JLA/JSA crossover continues in ***Justice Society of America #42*** and ***Justice League of America #48.*** In ***JSA,*** Starheart makes its final bid to obliterate the good in Green Lantern's life – and all of reality – forcing both teams to seek help in the Shade! Then we learn that the greatest threat to the Earth may not be Alan Scott or the chaotic energy of the Starheart, but one of the other members!

Who kidnapped Saturn Girl and Lightning Lad's twin children? Whoever it is, the real culprit is trying very hard to make the Legion members believe Darkseid perpetrated the deed. Is the mad New God to blame? Or is something even more dangerous at fault? Find out in *Paul Levitz, Yildiray Cinar, & Wayne Faucher's* ***Legion of Super-Heroes #4.***

The nightmare visions are coming true as Magog's fate becomes more and more entwined with the Psy-Cho Twins. It's all coming to a head in ***Magog #12***—the final issue of the series— as their hand is forced to ensure that "Kingdom Come" doesn't become a reality!

With Tim Drake targeted for assassination, will Red Robin have to eliminate his secret identity? Or is it all part of an elaborate ruse to draw out the lethal Egyptian assassin known as Scarab and get Vicki Vale off his trail? Find out in *Fabian Nicieza, Marcus To, & Ray McCarthy's* ***Red Robin #15.***

Meet Bizarro Supergirl in ***Supergirl #55*** by *Sterling Gates, Jamal Igle, & Jon Sibal.* How did she get to Earth and just what does she want? The real Supergirl better find out fast, or else there won't be much left of Metropolis to save!

J. Michael Straczynski, Eddy Barrows, & JP Mayer's "Grounded" continues in ***Superman #702*** as Superman enters a small town in Ohio where, like many towns, a number of its residents are from other places. But when The Man of Steel discovers that there are also a number of residents secretly from other worlds, he unravels a mystery that may have grave consequences for Earth.

Legendary writer *Cary Bates* explores a different side to Superman's legend in ***Superman: The Last Family of Krypton #1,*** the kickoff issue of a three-part Elseworlds tale that hinges on the fact that, when baby Kal-el has rocketed to the distant planet Earth from his doomed homeworld of Krypton, he was not alone. How does a world handle the emergence of the Last Family of Krypton as Jor-El, Lara and Kal-El make Earth their adopted home?

In ***Superman/Batman #75,*** *Paul Levitz & Jerry Ordway* unite the World's Finest with the super-team he's best known for – the Legion of Super-Heroes! Lex Luthor has finally unleashed a threat powerful enough to gain the Legion's attention in the far future, but to take Luthor down, they'll have to journey into the past and ask for help from both Batman and Superboy! This anniversary issue also features a variety of tales chronicling the history of The Man of Steel and The Dark Knight, courtesy of *Joe Levitz, David Finch, Adam Hughes, Francis Manapul,* and others.

DC kicks off their high-profile *Earth One* reinterpretations of their most famous characters with ***Superman: Earth One HC*** by *J. Michael Straczynski, Shane Davis, & Sandra Hope* (advance solicited for October release). This book offers an exciting new take on the world's best-known superhero, set in an all-new continuity. What would happen if the origin of The Man of Tomorrow were introduced today for the very first time? Return to Smallville and experience the journey of Earth's favorite adopted son as he grows from boy to Superman like you've never seen before!

"The Hunt for Raven" continues in ***Teen Titans #86.*** The Titans have found their friend, but will the Wyld be able to let her go? More important, is Raven still their teammate — or has she become something greater than ever?

Already lost in the time stream while searching for the missing Caped Crusader, Rip Hunter and his ad hoc Time Masters—Booster Gold, Superman and Green Lantern—may not live long enough to make it out of the barbaric age they find themselves sidelined into. Will Claw the Conqueror be able to help them or will he be their doom? *Dan Jurgens & Norm Rapmund* reveal all in ***Time Masters: Vanishing Point #2.***

Arsenal signs up with Deathstroke and Cheshire when the Titans target a child slavery ring for takedown in ***Titans #26*** by *Eric Wallace & Fabrizio Fiorentino.*

J. Michael Straczynski's epic Wonder Woman tale continues in ***Wonder Woman #602,*** as Diana takes the battle for her heritage to the enemy and discovers that the war may be over before it's even begun! And she's on the losing side…

DC collected volumes (advance solicited for September release) include:

- ***Batman: Life After Death HC,*** collecting ***Batman #s 692-699.***
- ***Batman: Cacophony TP,*** collecting the three-issue miniseries by *Kevin Smith & Walt Flanagan.*
- ***Batman: Streets of Gotham—Leviathan HC,*** collecting ***Batman: Streets of Gotham #s 5-11.***
- ***The Flash Chronicles Volume 2 TP,*** collecting ***Flash #s 107-112.***
- ***JSA: Black Adam & Isis TP,*** collecting ***JSA #s 23-28.***
- ***Lobo: Highway to Hell TP,*** collecting the miniseries by *Scott Ian & Sam Kieth.*

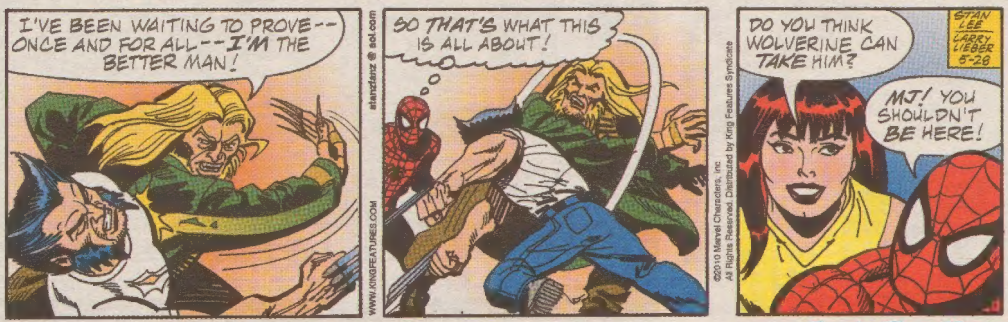
- ***Luthor HC,*** collecting the five-issue miniseries by *Brian Azzarello, Lee Bermejo, Mick Gray, & Karl Story.*
- ***Red Robin: Collision TP,*** collecting ***Red Robin #s 6-12 & Batgirl #8.***
- ***Showcase Presents the Legion of Super-Heroes Volume 4 TP,*** collecting ***Adventure #s 369-380, Action #s 378-387, 389-392,*** and ***Superboy #s 172, 173, 176, 183, 184, 188, 190, & 191.***
- ***Starman Omnibus Volume 5 HC,*** collecting ***Starman #s 47-60 & 1,000,000, Stars & STRIPE #0, All-Star Comics 80-Page Giant #1,*** and a story from ***JSA All Stars #4.***
- ***Supergirl: Death and the Family TP,*** collecting ***Supergirl #s 48-50 & Annual #1.***
- ***Superman: New Krypton Volume 2 TP,*** collecting ***Superman #682-683, Action #s 872-873,*** and ***Supergirl #s 35-36.***
- ***Superman: Nightwing & Flamebird Volume 2 HC,*** collecting ***Action #s 883-889, Superman #696,*** and stories from ***Adventure #s 8-10.***
- ***Warlord: The Forgotten TP,*** collecting ***Warlord #s 7-12.***
- ***The World's Greatest Super-Heroes TP,*** collecting six classic tales by *Paul Dini & Alex Ross*—***Superman: Peace on Earth, Batman: War on Crime, Shazam!: Power of Hope, Wonder Woman: Spirit of Truth, JLA: Secret Origins, & JLA: Liberty & Justice.***

Coming Comics— WildStorm/DC in August

Learn how Astrid Farnsworth solved her first murder and came to the attention of the FBI in ***Fringe: Tales from the Fringe #3.*** In the backup, discover the lengths to which people will go to acquire the world's deadliest weapon.

The year is 44 B.C. Julius Caesar has conquered Transylvania, and vampyres are Rome's new slave class. But when rich mortals start turning up dead with fang marks on their necks, Valens, a vampyre slave-turned-Roman soldier, plunges into the blood-soaked underworld of Rome to capture the Pluto's Kiss Killer in ***Ides of Blood #1*** by *Stuart C. Paul & Christian Duce.*

Following the bullet-ridden finale to the best-selling video game, Kane and Lynch decide what's best for everyone concerned is that they go their separate ways. That is, until a contract is put out on their collective lives for a huge bounty – and every assassin and two-bit goon around the world is gunning for the


I'VE BEEN WAITING TO PROVE-- ONCE AND FOR ALL--I'M THE BETTER MAN!
SO THAT'S WHAT THIS IS ALL ABOUT!
DO YOU THINK WOLVERINE CAN TAKE HIM?
STAN LEE LARRY LIEBER 5-26
MJ! YOU SHOULDN'T BE HERE!
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volatile pair. Can the unrepentant traitor and medicated psychopath work together once more to save their lives and get to the bottom of this blood-drenched conspiracy? Find out in ***Kane and Lynch #1,*** the kickoff issue of a six-part series by *Ian Edginton & Christopher Mitten.*

Mulder and Scully's investigation into ritual killings in Alaska takes a dramatic turn when they discover a survivor among the carnage. Could she have witnessed the horror – or is she somehow chillingly connected to it? Find out in ***X-Files/30 Days of Night #2*** by *Steve Niles, Adam Jones, & Tom Mandrake.*

WildStorm collected editions (advance solicited for September release) include:

- ***Astro City: The Dark Age 2—Brothers in Arms HC,*** collecting ***Astro City: The Dark Age Book 3 #s 1-4 & Book 4 #s 1-4.***
- ***Modern Warfare 2: Ghost TP,*** collecting the six-issue miniseries.
- ***Supernatural: Beginning's End TP,*** collecting the six-part miniseries that ties in to the CW television show.
- ***Wildcats Version 3.0: Year One TP,*** collecting ***WildStorm #s 1-12*** by *Joe Casey & Dustin Nguyen.*
- ***World of Warcraft Book 4 HC,*** collecting ***World of Warcraft #s 22-25 & Special #1.***

Coming Comics—Vertigo/DC in August

Air comes to an end with the 24th issue as Blythe must use everything she's learned to make the skies – and the people she loves – safe.

Denise Mina, award-winning crime novelist, brings her psychological style of crime fiction to Vertigo Crime with ***A Sickness in the Family HC,*** illustrated by *Antonio Fuso.* Meet the Ushers. The parents, Ted and Biddy. Grandma Martha. The three kids, William, Amy and Sam. Just a normal, middle-class family gathered around the table on Christmas Day. Until they start dying. Violent deaths. One by one. Is there a curse on their house, as a recently unearthed history of witchcraft in the area would suggest? Or has one member of the Usher clan declared open season on the rest?

In ***The Green Woman, New York Times*** best-selling author *Peter Straub* resurrects his most sinister creation, Fielding "Fee" Bandolier, the unstoppable serial killer last seen in Straub's bestseller, ***The Throat.*** Aging and tired of a life devoted to death, Fee is preparing to end his long career of bloodshed. Meanwhile, disillusioned New York detective Bob Steele is out for redemption—and to him, redemption means a one-man crusade to stop Fielding Bandolier. This original 160-page graphic novel is co-written with *Michael Easton* and illustrated by *John Bolton.*

Vertigo collected volumes (advance solicited for September release) include:

- ***The Sandman: The Dream Hunters TP,*** collecting *P. Craig Russell's* adaptation of *Neil Gaiman's* novella.
- ***Transmetropolitan Volume 8: Dirge TP,*** a new edition collecting ***Transmetropolitan #s 43-48.***
- ***Y—The Last Man Deluxe Edition Book 4 HC,*** collecting ***Y #s 37-48.***

Coming in January 2011 from DC Direct

Some of Batman's most memorable villains are spotlighted in the new ***Batman: Arkham Asylum Series 1 Action Figures*** line. The initial figures include ***The Joker with Scarface, Scarecrow, Harley Quinn,*** and (of course!) the Dark Knight himself!

Blackest Night continues in minibust form with the unveiling of the ***Heroes of the DC Universe: Blackest Night Mini-Bust*** series, which launches with the ***Green Lantern Hal Jordan Bust,*** sculpted by *Jean St. Jean* based on art designs by *Ivan Reis.*

Twelve prints of painted cover art by *Rodolfo Migliari* from the ***Blackest Night*** series—including two collaborations with *Ivan Reis* and one with *Dave Gibbon*—are collected in ***Blackest Night Portfolio Set One.*** All 12 prints measure approximately 8" x 10" and are ready for instant framing.

Batman Black & White Statue: Batman by Tony Daniel presents a striking black and white sculpture by *James Shoop* based on Daniel's art from the Batman storyline, "The Battle For The Cowl."

The art of the incomparable *Adam Hughes* is the inspiration for the *Jack Mathews*-sculpted ***Cover Girls of the DC Universe: Supergirl Statue.***

DC expands—or should we say "contracts"?—their ame-comi line with the release of ***Ame-Comi Heroine Mini-Figure Series One,*** featuring brand new sculpts inspired by the successful Ame-Comi Heroine PVC Statue line. The first series includes ***Batgirl,*** cuddling a

squishable baby bat toy; *Harley Quinn,* wielding a deadly pop-gun; and ***Poison Ivy,*** charming a serpentine vine.

Killzone Series One includes a pair of ***Killzone*** action figures: ***Helghast Sniper*** and ***Helghast Assault Infantry.***

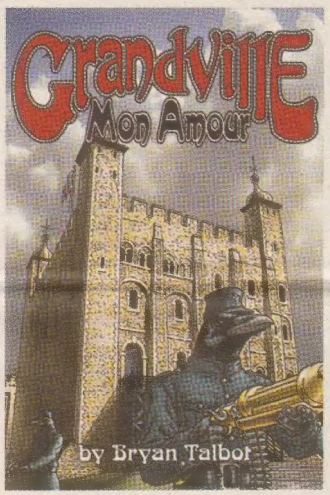
Coming Comics—Dark Horse in August

Mike Mignola & Christopher Golden's ***Baltimore*** novel makes the jump to comics this summer, courtesy of Mignola, Golden, and artist *Ben Stenbeck,* Months after a devastating plague ends World War I, Europe is suddenly flooded with deadly vampires. Lord Henry Baltimore, a soldier determined to wipe out the monsters, is on the hunt for the creature responsible for this chaos and his own personal tragedy. What he uncovers is a terror as horrific and frightening as any he's seen on the battlefield.

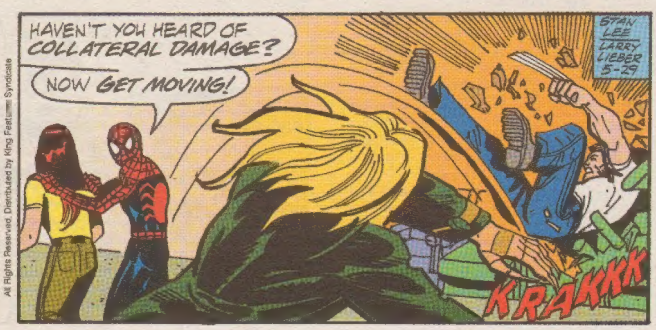
Following the global havoc created by the frog war, and with the organization. Now operating under strict U.N. oversight, the BPRD face new horrors in ***BPRD: Hell on Earth—New World #1,*** the premiere issue of a five-part limited series. People are once again vanishing from small towns, monsters are roaming in the woods, and a strange new creature arrives to create hell on earth.

After a couple of ***Buffy***-less months, fans can rejoice: acclaimed ***Buffy*** television writer *Jane Espenson* is back with a new oneshot that expands on one of the surprising twists she and executive producer *Joss Whedon* introduced in the hit story arc "Retreat"! In the midst of the battle, Buffy's former flame, the demon-fighting soldier Riley Finn was revealed as a double agent working for the Slayer army. Now Espenson and artist *Karl Moline* uncover the secrets of Riley's recruitment by Buffy, his infiltration of Twilight's inner circle, and what's become of him and his superspy wife, Sam.

Jim Shooter's reinterpretation of Solar continues in ***Doctor Solar, Man of the Atom #2.*** Whitmore Pickerel has the power to create living beings out of nothingness, creating new entities designed to suit his own increasingly selfish desires. But now his living, breathing, tremendously powerful creations have turned against him and are pursuing their own agendas. The Man of the Atom fights fiercely to cut short the swath of looting and destruction left in the wake of Glow and Leviathan. Meanwhile, Pickerel's fear of his own creations drives him to conjure a supremely powerful guardian to protect him… but what he accomplishes opens the door to disaster. Enter: Moloch, the Devourer. The Man of the Atom is forced to pit his godlike power against the power of a god!



Bryan Talbot returns to the anthropomorphic world of his badger detective in ***Grandville Mon Amour.*** It all begins when convicted psychotic killer and extremist fanatic Edward "Mad Dog" Mastock violently escapes the guillotine's blade in the Tower of London to once again terrorize the Socialist Republic of Britain. But dogging Mastock's bloody footsteps is his longtime adversary and nemesis, Detective Inspector Archie LeBrock, at odds with Scotland Yard and intent on bringing Mastock's horrific murder spree to an end, once and for all.



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Jim Shooter brings his storytelling skills to bear on the legendary robot fighter once again in the all-new ***Magnus, Robot Fighter #1,*** illustrated by *Bill Reinhold*. The continent-spanning city of North Am is a miracle of ingenuity and ambition, a technological paradise where "milespires" pierce the clouds and robots perform virtually all labor, freeing humankind to pursue leisure and bliss. But in the shadows of the sun-drenched towers, human mobsters use robot-muscle "thug-bots" to terrorize the citizenry of North Am. Human trafficking, illegal psychoactive substances, violent crime, and corrosive corruption are suddenly epidemic in the glittering utopia, with only the mighty Robot Fighter to stand against them. The first issue also includes a bonus reprint of the original ***Magnus #1*** from 1963.

MySpace Dark Horse Presents Volume 5 TP presents the first printed editions of previously-available-online-only tales featuring the vampiric Harmony, the barbaric Conan, the taciturn Solomon Kane, the enigmatic Mister X, and much more.

Tom Taylor & Chris Scalf present a multigenerational tale of honor and redemption starring two of the heaviest hitters in the Star Wars galaxy in ***Star Wars: Blood Ties—A Tale of Jango & Boba Fett,*** a four-issue miniseries. Shortly before the start of the Clone Wars, Count Dooku sends Jango Fett on a mission that will affect the course of Boba Fett's life some twenty years later.

The end of the story in the hugely popular game The Force Unleashed left the Star Wars galaxy poised at the brink of civil war. But before that can happen, the Emperor and his apprentice, Darth Vader, have another plan already in play—and you can see what it is in *Haden Blackman & Omar Francia's* original graphic novel ***Star Wars: The Force Unleashed II.***

David Follett presents the story of a brilliant ecological supergenius, his niece and nephew, and the organic computer SOFIA in ***Uncle Silas: Genetis,*** a tale that begins when Silas gets lost within his ever-expanding and constantly changing greenhouse.

Linus is the fourth offering in the ***60th Anniversary Classic Peanuts Statue*** line; this syroco-style statue is limited to 750 pieces, and each is packaged in its own tin box, with a pin-back button and a character booklet.

The ***Classic Uncle Scrooge Series 2*** line continues with the fourth offering, ***Huey, Dewey, and Louie.*** Limited to 950 copies, the syroco-style statue is packaged in a full-color, litho-printed tin box, with a character booklet and a vintage-style pin-back button.

Dark Horse jumps on the $1-introductory-reprints bandwagon with a half-dozen try-em-for-a-buck issues: ***Aliens Vs. Predator #1, Sin City: The Hard Goodbye #1, Hellboy: Seed of Destruction #1, Usagi Yojimbo #1, Conan #1,*** and ***The Goon #1.***

Dark Horse collected volumes (advance solicited for September and October release) include:

- ***Buffy the Vampire Slayer Season Eight Volume Seven: Twilight TP,*** collecting ***Buffy #s 31-35*** and the ***Willow*** oneshot.
- ***The Chronicles of Conan Volume 20: Night of the Wolf and Other Stories TP,*** collecting Marvel's ***Conan the Barbarian #151-159*** with new coloring and a foreword by *Ernie Chan.*
- ***Citizen Rex HC,*** collecting the miniseries by *Mario & Gilbert Hernandez.*
- ***Conan Volume 9: Free Companions HC,*** collecting ***Conan the Cimmerian #s 14 & 16-21.***
- ***Creepy Archives Volume 8 HC,*** collecting ***Creepy #s 37-40.***
- ***De:Tales HC,*** a new edition of the out-of-print collection of *Gabriel Ba & Fabio Moon's* short story collection.
- ***Doctor Solar, Man of the Atom Archive Volume One TP,*** collecting the first seven issues of the Gold Key series from the 1960s.
- ***Frank Miller's Sin City Volume 3: The Big Fat Kill 3rd Edition TP,*** complete with a new design and new cover art by *Frank Miller.*
- ***Frank Miller's Sin City Volume 4: That Yellow Bastard 3rd Edition TP,*** complete with a new design and new cover art by *Frank Miller.*
- ***The Goon Volume 2: My Murderous Childhood & Other Grievous Yarns 2nd Edition TP,*** which features a new *Eric Powell* cover and a new design that matches Dark Horse's recent ***Goon Year*** paperbacks.
- ***Hellboy: Masks & Monsters TP,*** the Hellboy-Starman crossover by *Mike Mignola & James Robinson,* offered in a Hellboy-trade-dress trade paperback for the first time.
- ***Scary Godmother HC,*** a 192-page full-color volume collecting *Jill Thompson's* ***Scary Godmother, Revenge of Jimmy, The Mystery Date,*** and ***The Boo Flu*** in a single edition, adding concept designs and other bonus items.
- ***Solomon Kane Volume Two: Death's Black Riders TP,*** collecting the miniseries along with the "All the Damned Souls at Sea" Kane comic by *Scott Allie, Guy Davis, & Dave Stewart.*
- ***Star Wars Omnibus: A Long Time Ago... Volume 2 TP,*** collecting Marvel's ***Star Wars #s 28-49 & Annual #1.***

Coming Comics—Marvel in August

Marvelman Family's Finest #2 continues Marvel's reprinting of rarely-seen *Mick Anglo* ***Marvelman*** tales from the 1950s.

While her MI13 compatriots make nice with the Yankee super sorts, Lady Jacqueline Falsworth is on the hunt for an old acquaintance in *Paul Cornell & Elena Casagrande's* ***Spitfire #1.*** With Blade at her side, the immortal speedstress must conquer her past in order to save her future!

Just a few months after the release of the mathematically-off-kilter ***Deadpool #900,*** Marvel's back with ***Deadpool #1000.*** This 104-page special pits Deadpool against urban cannibals… underage hit men… mimes from outer space… and Lady Luck herself.

The Avengers find themselves caught in the middle in *Mark Millar & Leinil Francis Yu's* ***Ultimate Comics Avengers 2 #6*** as Ghost Rider and the demonically powered Vice-President Blackthorne go head-to-flaming-head! What hope do Hawkeye, Punisher, and the new Hulk have against Satan's soldiers? Find out in this limited series finale that lead right into...

Ultimate Comics 3 #1 by *Mark Millar & Steve Dillon.* Blade is back in a bad way—and that means that vampires are back, too! Somebody is leaving a bloody trail of bite marks and Blade's ready to take them on. Could the mysterious figure donned in an iron suit have something to do with it? And who exactly is the new figure leaping around down in a devil costume?

Whatever's happening in *Brian Bendis & David LaFuente's* ***Ultimate Comics Spider-Man #13,*** Marvel promises that it's big—in fact, in their words, "Spider-Man's entire life is completely destroyed." How? Why? We'll find out in August!

Joe Quesada & Paolo Rivera continue "One Moment in Time" in ***Amazing Spider-Man #s 640 & 641.*** How did the world *really* forget Peter Parker was Spider-Man? And what does the future hold for Peter & Mary Jane? Every question is answered, the past laid to rest, and Spider-Man swings into a new direction for the future with this story arc!

In a story spanning the history of the MC2 Universe, witness the battle you've been waiting for as Mayday Parker takes on her own clone, April, in ***Spider-Girl: The End #1*** by *Tom DeFalco & Ron Frenz.* The fate of the Parker family hangs in the balance -- and so does an entire universe!

The Secret Avengers' true enemy is revealed in *Ed Brubaker & Mike Deodato's* ***Secret Avengers #4.*** The fate of one hero and the birth of another will be revealed in this issue.

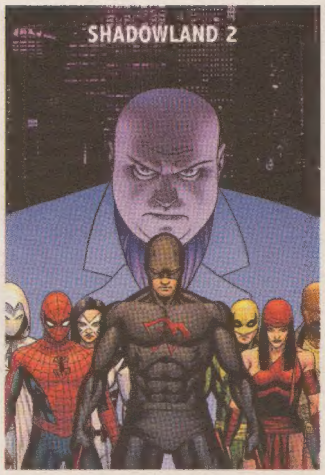
Norman Osborn and the all-new, all-deadly Thunderbolts guest-star in ***Avengers Academy #3*** by *Christos Gage & Mike McKone.* The Academy kids are about to experience "scared straight," super-villain style...courtesy of Juggernaut and the new Thunderbolts program! But it's another inmate that captures their attention...the man who imprisoned, experimented on and tortured them: Norman Osborn!

Who is the true master of the mystic arts? Well, it ain't Doctor Strange and it ain't Doctor Voodoo. The bad news is he's here and he is in charge. And he is gleefully ripping this dimension apart, piece by piece, in his search for relics of power. How are the legacies of Iron Fist, Doctor Strange and Wolverine connected? Find out in ***New Avengers #3*** by *Brian Bendis & Stuart Immonen.*

Age of Heroes #4 features short tales spotlighting Shuri, the deadly Black Panther; Captain America and his time on ice; Zodiac, who's ready for the Age of Villains to begin; and Steve Rogers: Super-Soldier, who has an all-new assignment for Initiative cadet Cloud 9

Thanos has acquired the Infinity Gems, granting him control over the entire universe. He's destroyed half the population of all worlds. The only force standing in his way? The Avengers! See how they stop him in ***Avengers and the Infinity Gauntlet,*** a four-parter by *Brian Clevinger & Brian Churilla.*

James "Bucky" Barnes has led many lives. Once he was Captain America's partner Bucky, a proud member of the Invaders, a founder of the original Young Allies. Now he is Captain America, the Sentinel of Liberty, and when an old enemy suddenly reappears, Jim must re-open the last, unsolved case of the Young Allies to stop a menace that threatens the world! And that's just what he does in *Roger Stern, Nick Dragotta, & Marco Santucci's* ***Captain America: Forever Allies,*** a four-part limited series.



The battle for control of New York's underworld is underway, and Daredevil is right in the middle—but so is Luke Cage, Iron Fist, Spider-Man, Moon Knight, and... Kingpin? Witness the action in ***Shadowland #2*** and ***Daredevil #509,*** a Shadowland tie-in.

Bullseye's secrets are revealed in ***Shadowland: Bullseye,*** a oneshot by *John Layman & Sean Chen.*

Daredevil has summoned the villainous Profile to take Moon Knight out of the picture for good. And to do it, the Profile enlists the aid of a mysterious figure, a second avatar of Khonshu! Witness the confrontation in ***Shadowland: Moon Knight,*** a three-part limited series by *Gregg Hurwitz & Bong Dazo.*

Meet the all-new Power Man—and learn about his connections to Iron Fist and Luke Cage—in the four-part ***Shadowland: Power Man*** by *Fred Van Lente & Mahmud Asrar.*

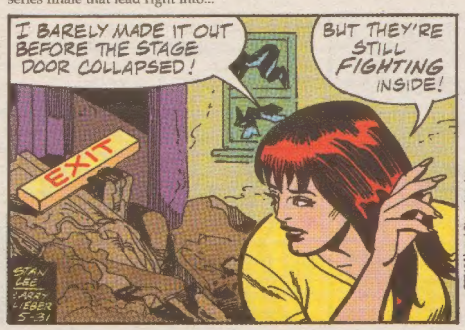
Silver Sable, Paladin, Misty Knight, and the Shroud share their time in the spotlight in the four-part ***Shadowland: Blood on the Streets*** by *Antony Johnston & Wellington Alves.* Can this controversial crew put aside their differences before a war between The Hand and the mob sets New York ablaze?

What is Colleen Wing's secret connection to the mysterious organization called the Hand? What tragedy from her past binds Wing to Daredevil's dark empire and commands the noble sword slinger to lead a new all-female hit squad? These questions are answered in ***Shadowland: Daughters of the Shadow,*** a three-parter by *Jason Henderson & Ivan Rodriguez.*

Peter Milligan, Rick Spears, and Ann Nocenti contribute short tales spotlighting the Man Without Fear in ***Daredevil Black & White,*** an original oneshot.

World War Hulks comes to an end in ***Hulk #24*** by *Jeph Loeb & Ed McGuinness.* Who will live? Who will die? Can the Marvel Universe continue with both a green and a red Hulk?

Skaar, Son of Hulk finally confronts his father in ***Incredible Hulk #611*** by *Greg Pak & Paul Pelletier.*



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A terrible plague has swept the Earth, turning everyone – human, hero, villain, god and monster — into sadistic cannibal predators. As Spider-Man, the Hulk, the Thing and other infected start a feeding frenzy, the world falls in a wave of insatiable violence. Now, five years later, one man hunts the wasteland that was New York City. One man stands against the hordes of monsters who hunt the night. He is the Punisher, the Last Gun on Earth. Watch him go to work in ***Marvel Universe Vs. The Punisher,*** a four-part limited series by *Jonathan Maberry & Goran Parlov.*

Resentful and bitter after his trial and fed up with Asgard, Thor has quit the gods and taken up with the world of men... joined a humble community...taken a wife. But when the bloody tides of Asgard's battles lap even at the shores of Earth, Thor must take up arms once more in ***Thor: The Rage of Thor*** by *Peter Milligan & Mico Suayan.*

The Avengers Academy guest-star in ***Thunderbolts #147*** by *Jeff Parker & Kev Walker.* A scared-straight visit from the next generation of Earth's Mightiest Heroes goes horribly wrong and Luke Cage isn't sure which of his Thunderbolts he can count on to regain control of The Raft!

The fallout of "Second Coming" continues in ***Uncanny X-Men #527*** by *Matt Fraction & Whilce Portacio.*

The X-Men's war against Dracula and his vampire army continues in ***X-Men #2*** by *Victor Gischler & Paco Medina*—and Blade drops by to lend a hand.

NAMOR: THE FIRST MUTANT 1

When the X-Men are confronted with a deadly vampire threat, Namor takes matters into his own hands on a mission that might bring down the entire might of the vampires on their heads… and in the process, destroy Atlantis! Witness the beginning of a new chapter in Namor's life in ***Namor: The First Mutant #1*** by *Stuart Moore & Ariel Olivetti.*

A new dawn is rising for the vampire nation. The rules are about to be rewritten, and Blade's about to go to fang-to-fang with a new threat he knows he can't fight alone in ***X-Men: Curse of the Mutants—Blade #1*** by *Duane Swierczynski & Tim Green.*

As an army of vampires descends on San Francisco, the X-Men find themselves in dire straits. The good news is that they may have just discovered a means for stemming the invasion. The bad news? What they need is in the clutches of the vampires themselves. Luckily, the X-Men have two thieves in their employ that may just be able pull off such a heist... and they're about to go into action in ***X-Men: Curse of the Mutants—Storm & Gambit.***

At the reading of Nightcrawler's will, Logan learns that his friend had one last request—something Logan can not refuse, no matter how much it might pain him. Find out what that request is in ***Wolverine: Weapon X #16,*** which paves the way for September's ***Wolverine #1.***

Wolfsbane is about to return to X-Factor... but how is she going to react when she discovers that Rictor and Shatterstar are a couple? Not all that well, as Shatterstar finds himself in the fight of his

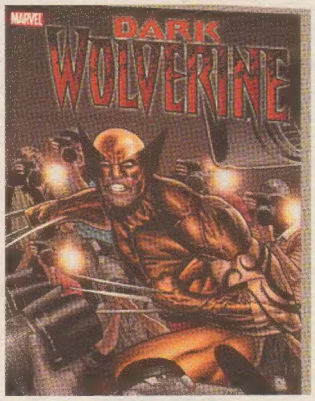
life in ***X-Factor #208*** by *Peter David & Emanuela Lupacchino.*

Chris Claremont returns to the young mutants he created in ***New Mutants Forever,*** a five-issue limited series. Their headmaster, Magneto, has just joined the Hellfire Club, and now the team faces a threat so terrible they're willing to join forces with the Black Queen, Selene!

A mild-mannered accountant's trip to a massage parlor takes his life in a very unexpected direction in ***PunisherMax: Happy Ending,*** a oneshot by *Peter Milligan & Juan Jose Rhyp.*

Marvel collected editions include:

- ***Avengers/Invaders TP,*** collecting the twelve-issue limited series.
- ***Civil War: Spider-Man HC,*** collecting ***Amazing Spider-Man #s 529-538, Sensational Spider-Man #s 28-34, & Friendly Neighborhood Spider-Man #s 11-16.***
- ***Daredevil: The Devil's Hand TP,*** collecting ***Daredevil #s 501-507 & Daredevil: Dark Reign—The List.***
- ***Dark X-Men TP,*** collecting ***Dark X-Men #s 1-5.***
- ***Deathlok: The Demolisher Premiere HC,*** collecting ***Deathlok #s 1-7.***
- ***Essential Hulk Volume 6 TP,*** collecting ***Incredible Hulk #s 201-225 & Annual #6.***
- ***Excalibur Visionaries: Warren Ellis Volume 2 TP,*** collecting ***Excalibur #s 91-95, X-Man #12, & Starjammers #s 1-4.***
- ***Exiles Ultimate Collection Book 5 TP,*** collecting ***Exiles #s 75-89 & Annual #1.***
- ***Fantastic Four: Resurrection of Galactus Premiere HC,*** collecting ***FF (1998) #s 46-50 & Annual 2001.***
- ***Halo: Helljumper TP,*** collecting the five-part miniseries.
- ***Hulk: Fall of the Hulks—The Savage She-Hulks TP,*** collecting ***Savage She-Hulks #s 1-3*** and more.
- ***Husk Premiere HC,*** collecting ***Husk #s 1 & 2.***
- ***Invaders: The Eve of Destruction TP,*** collecting ***Marvel Universe #s 1-7.***
- ***Iron Man: Extremis HC with Motion Comic DVD,*** collecting the six-part series in smaller trim size with a bonus DVD.
- ***Kick Ass TP,*** collecting the miniseries by *Mark Millar & John Romita Jr.*
- ***Marvel Masterworks: The Defenders HC,*** collecting ***Defenders #s 7-16, Giant-Size Defenders #1, & Avengers #s 115-118.***
- ***Marvel Masterworks: Golden Age Marvel Comics Volume 5 HC,*** collecting ***Marvel Mystery Comics #s 17-20.***
- ***Marvel Masterworks: The Silver Surfer Volume 2 TP,*** collecting ***Silver Surfer #s 7-18.***
- ***Ms. Marvel Volume 9: Best You Can Be TP,*** collecting ***Ms. Marvel #s 47-50.***
- ***Oz: The Wonderful Wizard of Oz GN,*** a smaller-trim-size collection of the eight-part adaptation.
- ***Punisher Max: Naked Kills TP,*** collecting three oneshots and an annual.
- ***Runaways Volume 11: Homeschooling Digest,*** collecting ***Runaways V3 #s 11-14 & What If the Runaways Became the Young Avengers?***
- ***Secret Invasion HC,*** collecting the eight-part limited series, supplemented with the original story pitch, script pages, art concepts/designs and more.
- ***Siege: Avengers—The Initiative Premiere HC,*** collecting ***Avengers—The Initiative #s 31-35.***
- ***Siege: New Avengers Premiere HC,*** collecting ***New Avengers #s 61-64, Annual #3,*** and more.
- ***Siege: Thor Premiere HC,*** collecting ***Thor #s 607-610, New Mutants #11, & Siege: Loki.***
- ***Siege: Thunderbolts Premiere HC,*** collecting ***Thunderbolts #s 138-143.***
- ***Spider-Man: The Complete Clone Saga Epic Book 3 TP,*** collecting 464 pages of original clone saga action.
- ***Spider-Woman: Agent of SWORD Premiere HC,*** collecting ***Spider-Woman #s 1-7.***
- ***Strange Tales TP,*** collecting the indy-creators three-part anthology series and more.
- ***Tales of the Dragon Guard Premiere HC,*** collecting ***Tales of the Dragon Guard #s 1-3.***
- ***Thor: If Asgard Should Perish Premiere HC,*** collecting ***Thor v1 #s 242-253.***
- ***Thor: Son of Asgard TP,*** collecting the twelve-part series.
- ***The Torch TP,*** collecting the eight-issue miniseries.
- ***Ultimates II Ultimate Collection TP,*** collecting ***Ultimates 2 #s 1-13 & Ultimates 2 #1 Sketch Edition.***
- ***Ultimate Spider-Man Ultimate Collection Book 3 TP,*** collecting ***Ultimate Spider-Man #s 28-39*** and more.



- ***Wolverine: Dark Wolverine Volume 2—My Hero TP,*** collecting ***Dark Wolverine #s 78-81.***
- ***Wolverine Origins—Seven the Hard Way TP,*** collecting ***Wolverine Origins #s 41-45.***
- ***Women of Marvel: Celebrating Seven Decades Omnibus HC,*** a massive 1160-page compendium featuring stories starring Marvel's mightiest heroines, as well as rarely seen stories from ***Millie the Model, Patsy & Hedy Annual,*** and other Marvel cult favorites.
- ***X-Factor: Second Coming Premiere HC,*** collecting ***X-Factor #s 204-206 & Nation X: X-Factor.***
- ***X-Force: Cable & the New Mutants Premiere HC,*** collecting ***New Mutants #s 86-97 & Annual #5.***
- ***X-Men Forever Volume 4 TP,*** collecting ***X-Men Forever #s 16-20 & Annual #1.***

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GIVE IT UP BEFORE YOU BOTH COLLAPSE!
NO WAY!
BUTT OUT, BUB!
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THEY'RE SO GROGGY--THEY CAN BARELY STAND!
I COULD STOP THIS BY WEBBING BOTH OF 'EM--
BUT WOLVERINE SAID TO BUTT OUT!
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